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SUBJECT

Methods of Fulfilling Critical Metals Requirements

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- THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO
- Rationing of critical metals
 - Increased collection of scrap material
 - Intensified utilization of domestic raw material.

Rationing of Critical Metals. According to regulations issued by the Ministry of Heavy Industry, effective 18 February 1951, all specially listed metals and alloyed steels must be recorded and rationed. The regulations refer to cobalt, niobium, tantalum, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel, vanadium, titanium, and zirconium, in pure form, in mixtures and alloys, and as raw materials and semi-finished products. They also refer to ferro-chromium, ferro-silicon, cobalt high speed cutting tools, and welding alloys, containing cobalt.] A copy of the regulations is attached in Annex.

Increased Collection of Scrap Material. The collection of scrap material was reorganized. According to government regulation No. 88/1949 Sb, the collection of scrap was predominantly on a commercial basis up to 1951. However, the new version of the regulation stipulated that needed raw materials must be delivered to the industries in the first place. Following these new trends the national enterprise charged with collecting activities was placed under the authority of the Ministry of Industry, and subsequently under the authority of the Ministry of Light Industry. The amount of iron and non-ferrous metal scheduled to be collected by the State Planning Office in 1951 was hundred percent above the 1950 figure.]

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Regulations Regarding Some Special Metals and Alloyed Steels

In conformity with paragraph 2 of the government order No. 107/1949 Sb and paragraphs 8 and 9 of the government order No. 201/1950 Sb, the Ministry of Heavy Industry and the Center for Material Supply stipulate the following regulations regarding unused materials and material supply:

Paragraph 1

These regulations apply to the following special metals and alloyed steels:

a. Cobalt, niobium, tantalum, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel, vanadium, titanium, and zirconium, in pure form, in mixtures, compositions or alloys containing these metals, regardless whether they are classified as raw materials or as semi-finished products. (Therefore, ores, concentrates, and finished products are excepted).

b. Ferro-chromium with a carbon content up to 0.06 percent

c. Ferro-chromium with a carbon content from 0.06 to 0.1 percent

d. Ferro-silicon 90 percent

e. Cobalt high speed cutting tools, under treatment and completed

f. Welding alloys, containing cobalt, i.e., alloys like Poldi Real, D, S, SJ, L, LH, as well as stellite, celsit, tizit, and corresponding foreign types --- all these alloys except those already welded.

Paragraph 2

Effective 18 February 1951, only the Center of Material Supply is authorized to dispose of the material (see list in paragraph 1).

Paragraph 3

1. Anyone using rooms, buildings, or other premises which contain or will contain materials is ordered to report such materials with the following information:

a. State of the material as of 18 February 1951.

b. If the material was in the domestic market on 18 February 1951, then according to the state of the material on the day when it was taken over.

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c. If imported after 18 February 1951, according to the state of the material on the day when it was taken over whether outside of the building, room, or premises used by the importer.

d. If the material was produced after 18 February 1951, according to its state on the day of its completion.

2. The material must be reported in kg, also the actual content of the individual elements contained in the mixtures, compositions, or alloys must be indicated in the report in kg, so far as is known to the person making the report.

Paragraph 4

1. The report must be submitted to the County National Committee in duplicate. In the case indicated in paragraph 3, section 1, letter a, the report must be submitted by 26 February 1951; in cases indicated in paragraph 3, section 1, letters b, c, and d, within three days after the taking-over of the material or after its completion.

2. The County National Committees will process the reports which they have received according to paragraph 3, section 1, letter a, and forward a summary to the Center for Material Supply by 5 March 1951, with a copy of each of the submitted reports. A copy of the reports forwarded in accordance with paragraph 3, section 1, letters b, c, and d, has to be submitted to the Center of Material Supply immediately after receipt.

Paragraph 5

1. Applications for the release or allocation of material to be processed or used must be made to the Center of Material Supply through the County National Committees six weeks before the beginning of each fiscal month at the latest. The applications must be substantiated technically in detail, and the final use of the material must be indicated.

2. The County National Committee will examine the applications and forward them with its own proposals to the Center of Material Supply within seven days after the day of receipt.

3. The applications, according to section 1 for the period 18 February 1951 to 29 April 1951, must be submitted by 26 February 1951.

Paragraph 6

Persons processing the material are bound to report to the Center of Material Supply through the County National Committee within two months after each fiscal month the amount of material they consumed within that time, and they must also indicate the kind and the amount of the finished products.

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Plants, administration agencies (National Committees), juveniles, women, the organizations of the KSC and ROH, were summoned to assist in the fulfillment of the expansion program. During a press meeting held in March 1951, J. Jonas, the Minister of Light Industry, requested an examination of the farms, stocks, and supply depots in order to guarantee that all unnecessary and presently unused materials be delivered to the raw material collecting points. Contests were held between the districts, plants, and communities for the purpose of stimulating scrap collection; heavy propaganda barrages publicized individual exploits. The following examples may highlight the extent of this program:

a. The brown coal mines and briquetting plants in Sokolov/Falkenau (N 51/P 58) pledged in February 1951 to deliver 6,000 tons of steel and 2,000 tons of castings by the end of 1951.

b. In April 1951 the employees of the North Bohemian brown coal mines in Most/Brux (N 51/P 13) delivered 1,734 tons of steel scrap and 51 tons of scrap castings to the ironworks.

c. The Chodov I/Chodau (N 51/P 59) Plant of the Kaaden Ceramic Works offered three carloads of unused stocks of castings and iron to the raw material collecting points.

d. The Sunday brigade in Pilsen/Pilsen (N 50/L 04) loaded seven railroad cars with scrap on a Sunday in March 1951.

e. Brigades of metalworkers dismantled salvaged locomotives. Raw material collecting points are authorized by the regulation No. 28/51 Sb issued by Dolansky, (inu), the chairman of the State Planning Office, to record and purchase motor vehicles which are no longer usable for the respective plants. According to Minister Dolansky, the scheduled 1951 scrap collection of iron equals the entire amount of [] iron ore imports. [] are set at 720,000 tons for 1951, it would mean that the scheduled scrap iron collection amounts to a considerable figure.

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By way of comparison, it may be noted that in 1937 Czechoslovakia consumed 480,000 tons of scrap iron, including 130,000 tons originating from inland collections, to produce 2.3 million tons of ingot steel. Three hundred and twenty thousand tons of scrap were consumed in 1946 and about 350,000 tons in 1947. The bulk of this scrap was gathered in the domestic market. However, during that time Czechoslovakia still had sizable wartime stockpiles of scrap.

3. Intensified Utilization of Domestic Raw Material Sources. The intensified utilization of domestic raw material sources is a long range program. Some of the old mines in Bohemia and Slovakia, which have been

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shut down for sometime, are scheduled to resume production and new mines are to be opened. The quality of Czechoslovakian ore presents certain difficulties. The iron ore production figure had to be lowered in the Two-Year Plan because the domestic ores are hard to sell. According to the original plan, 1.75 million tons of iron ore were scheduled to be produced in 1948. This figure was later reduced to 1.29 million tons.

[Under the Five-Year Plan an output of merely 1.4 million tons was planned for 1953 though there are adequate ore reserves. According to the revised Five-Year Plan, extended in March 1951, the 1953 production figure is 2.7 times higher than originally planned. This would mean that a production of about 3.8 million tons of iron ore was provided for 1953.] This increase is to be realized by the following measures:

- a. Reactivation of six mines
- b. Increased production in sixteen mines
- c. Activation of four mines.

[Plans call for the completion of seventeen ore dressing plants by 1955. Furthermore, the 1953 production figure of non-ferrous metal ores is planned to be 2.2 times greater than the original schedule.] The increased pyrite production, which began in 1950, is planned to cover all requirements for the production of sulphuric acid. The realization of this program will certainly meet with great difficulties because of the existing shortage of labor, mining facilities, and billets for workmen.

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